

**TOP SECRET**

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014. LAOTIAN CABINET CRISIS

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#### 4. LAOTIAN CABINET CRISIS

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		Prime Minister-designate Katay's chance of success in his second attempt to form a government appears slim. He is again opposed by the left-wing National Union Party and the small Democratic Party. It now appears that, at best, he can hope for a favorable margin of one or two votes.

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He is also reported to be under pressure from elements within his own Nationalist Party to withdraw in favor of former prime minister Souvanna Phouma.

In the event that Katay withdraws or is defeated a second time, Souvanna would probably be designated to form a government. His prospects appear favorable. Should Souvanna head a new government, he would be in a position to press for a coalition government with the Pathet Lao in view of the assembly's ratification of his 28 December agreement with Pathet chief Souphannouvong.

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# 8. STALINISTS CONSOLIDATE CONTROL OF BULGARIAN PARTY


The Stalinist leadership in Bulgaria-- the triumvirate of Chervenkov, Zhivkov, and Yugov--apparently has used the occasion of the party house-cleaning in Moscow to consolidate its control of the Bulgarian party. During the past several months, however, it has been applying some of Khrushchev's economic policies to Bulgaria, hoping thereby to counter party and popular dissidence.

Georgi Chankov, politburo member and first vice premier, and two members of the central committee generally believed to have been opposed to Chervenkov were removed from their party positions at a 11-12 July plenary session of the central committee,

The three men have been in partial eclipse for some time and were charged with factionalism, but have not yet been removed from their government posts. Twelve men simultaneously promoted to higher party posts are believed to be linked to Chervenkov.

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